

EDA Dairy Policy Conference 2022 The New Policy Framework for European Dairy

 #TheFutureOfDairy

On the 15th of March, we held our EDA Dairy Policy Conference 2022 in Brussels with the participation of close to 200 representatives from the European dairy sector, regional ministries and associations from across Europe and beyond.

In these disruptive times, our conference addressed the current humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and the challenges for the agri-food sector and food security in Ukraine, in the EU and worldwide.

Under the theme '**The New Policy Framework for European Dairy**' and the hashtag **#TheFutureOfDairy**, our conference also highlighted our ambitions for the future of agriculture and dairy in line with the upcoming political framework marked by the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the Farm to Fork Strategy and the European Green Deal.

A high-level panel formed by **Michael Scannell**, Deputy Director-General of DG Agri (European Commission), **Stanislav Němec**, Head of Agriculture and Environment Unit at the Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the EU, **Clotilde Eudier**, Vice President of Normandy region (France), **Barbara Otte-Kinast**, Minister of Agriculture of Lower Saxony (Germany), **Marie-Thérèse Bonneau**, President of France Carbon Agri association, and **Anne-Catherine Dalcq**, dairy farmer and Vice President of CEJA. A broad representation of key players in the future of dairy production, from the European to the regional level, including the new generation of European farmers.

EDA President **Giuseppe Ambrosi** opened the session stressing how the brutal Russian aggression on Ukraine has completely reshaped our world, emphasizing the need of the European Union to reinforce its security in energy, workforce and food supply in order to become an accepted global player. "Only on this secure basis, the EU can develop further credible instruments for its global ambitions," he remarked. Giuseppe Ambrosi also highlighted how now more than ever the European dairy sector must reaffirm its global leadership role to ensure food security at a reasonable price.

In relation to the interference of the Ukraine crisis in EU's climate goals, Giuseppe Ambrosi stated that the geopolitical catastrophe caused by Russia cannot be an excuse to water down our efforts towards a fully sustainable future dairy production. "Nevertheless, we need a science-based and an economically viable approach. The different studies on the 2030 impact of the Farm to Fork Strategy show us that an impact assessment is required," he pointed out.



EDA President Giuseppe Ambrosi during his opening speech



Michael Scannell, Deputy Director-General of DG Agri, highlighted the humanitarian consequences of the Ukraine crisis as top priority for the European Commission. He also warned about the need to reduce EU's dependence on elements like fossil fuels and imports like feed materials. In his excellent speech, Michael Scannell gave also an insight into the next steps on our way to a lower level of dependency of various input materials and energy. "Your sector, the dairy sector, is relatively well positioned here," he stated.



DG Agri Deputy Director-General Michael Scannell

Going from the EU Commission to the incoming Czech EU Presidency, Stanislav Němec, Head of Agriculture and Environment Unit at the Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the EU, intervened underlining the upcoming Czech EU Presidency's preparedness to cooperate with the EU dairy sector and tackle the challenges ahead. "We must look at the lessons learnt from the Covid pandemic and the Ukraine crisis: we must ensure a resilient food system, food security and access to affordable food." Stanislav Němec also gave a clear overview on today's state of play of the agri-food priorities of the Czech EU Presidency, starting in July 2022. "We are in close cooperation with our colleagues in France – and we will follow up and continue the science-based approach in all dossiers, especially in technical ones, like the antimicrobial resistance file."



Stanislav Němec, Head of Agriculture and Environment Unit at the Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the EU

Our conference also dived into the regional ambitions for the future of agriculture and dairy with the participation of Barbara Otte-Kinast (Minister of Agriculture of Lower Saxony, Germany) and Clotilde Eudier (Vice President of Normandy, France), both regions representing two major European milk pools.

"Regional economy plays a key role in the future viability of dairy farming," assured Barbara Otte-Kinast, replying to the question on how to make dairy fit for the future.



Full house at @EDA_Dairy policy conference in Brussels discussing #thefutureofdairy.



Barbara Otte-Kinast also explained how in Lower Saxony they are strengthening their regional economic cycles, for instance through eco model regions. "Society's demands for regional products, short transport routes and climate-friendly production processes are also reflected in the European Green Deal and the Farm to Fork Strategy," she declared.



Barbara Otte-Kinast, Minister of Agriculture of Lower Saxony, during her live speech via Zoom

On the other hand, Clotilde Eudier explained Normandy's efforts to pave the way towards environment transition. "I am fairly optimistic because the European and French agriculture have shown adaptability to the need for ecological transition and the introduction of new technologies," she stated. However, she stressed the need of making these changes economically viable for farmers. "Farms need to be at the core of it."



Clotilde Eudier, Vice President of Normandy region (France)

Marie-Thérèse Bonneau, President of France Carbon Agri Association, introduced the French approach for the low-carbon farming methodology that was launched in 2019. "The role of farmers is to produce food. Financial incentives for on CO2 reduction commitments measures taken to improve the carbon sink qualities of the farmland will increase the resilience of farms. With our methodology, we have a tool at hand that allows to issue carbon credits that can be valorized," she explained.



Marie-Thérèse Bonneau, President of France Carbon Agri

Representing the new generation of European dairy farmers, vice chair of young farmers' organization CEJA Anne-Catherine Dalcq showed young farmers' commitment to the challenges and changes ahead. However, she reminded the diversity of farmers across Europe and the different needs and means that they have, stating that no uniform measures should be established in agriculture due to farmers' different needs and capacities.



Anne-Catherine Dalcq, dairy farmer and Vice President of CEJA



EDA President Giuseppe Ambrosi with EDA vice chair Ingo Müller and Stanislav Němec, the Czech SCA member

After the closing remarks by Giuseppe Ambrosi, it was time to get our Annual Cheese Buffet started and enjoy a great selection of European cheeses. Thanks to all the speakers and participants for making our conference a huge success!



Read here the International Dairy Magazine (IDM) report on the conference:



Our Annual Report 2021/22 is out!

Check it out to find out the highlights from our work on EDA throughout the year and the latest trends and figures from the European dairy sphere:



EDA Annual Convention 2022 “Milk & Dairy – Essential for Your Life”

Madrid (Spain)

24th › 25th November 2022

